

J. M. Bathcart,
THE

MONITOR,

DESIGNED

TO IMPROVE THE TASTE,

THE

UNDERSTANDING,

AND

The Heart.

VOL. II.

—

BOSTON:
PUBLISHED BY CUMMINGS, HILLIARD, & CO.

—
HILLIARD AND METCALF PRINTERS.

1824.

PREFACE.

At the commencement of this volume we expressed our determination to lend our most cordial and efficient cooperation to measures designed to facilitate the acquisition of religious knowledge in Bible classes. At its close, while we review the year and find much cause of regret that no more has been done or even attempted for reclaiming a revolted and wretched race; we can and must rejoice that such powerful and extended impulse has been imparted to Bible class measures. While thousands of youth have been this year collected around their Pastors, and inestimable advantages have been flowing from such auxiliary means to the public services of the sanctuary, a broad foundation has also been laid for future years. The measures taken by the Pastoral Association and the General Association of Massachusetts; by the General Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church, and by the General Association of New Hampshire, are pledges that the friends of zion will not rest, till all the young people of our land shall have the opportunity of attending at the Bible class lecture. If our pages, or our efforts have in any humble measure contributed to these results, we shall esteem it our highest honour and our most exalted privilege. Nor dare we wholly to desist from labours in this particular part of the vineyard, till more able and energetic instruments shall be raised up for these specifick duties.

We would again return thanks to correspondents and to patrons, believing that the former have been rising in the merit of their contributions, and the latter in the interest they have felt in the perusal of our numbers.

Believing that important advantages would result from an union of the Monitor and Guardian, the Editors and Publishers of the two works have made arrangements for their union after the present volume. The particular excellencies of each plan will be retained and original articles from both the Editors will continue to be inserted. The terms will be the same as before, and subscribers to either will be considered as patrons of the united work, which will be issued monthly from Boston and New Haven, the first of the month.

Boston, Dec. 1824.

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